

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 4, lines 11-16, please amend as follows:

Figure 3 describes an exemplary [[device]] frequency synthesizer according to the invention, comprising, for example, a variable-step frequency synthesizer 10 that delivers a signal to a variable-rank N_b divider 11 whose fundamental frequency ranges between a frequency F3 and a frequency F4. [[It]] The frequency synthesizer comprises [[a]] the variable-rank N_b divider 11 connected at an input to be variable-step frequency synthesizer 10 that assumes the values N1 to Np (with $N1 < N2 \dots < Np$), a control device 12 to control the output frequency connected at output to the variable-step synthesizer 10 and at another output to the variable-rank divider 11 and, as the case may be, a filter 13.

Page 6, lines 8-14, please amend as follows:

In the device according to the invention, the length of the cycle of evolution of Na is variable and dependent on the value Nb (division value of the variable-rank divider). The reference frequency Fref is chosen so that the desired fractional step values are obtained as follows:

- Fref is a function of sequence of the values N1, N2, ... Np that may be assumed by Nb,
- $F_{ref}/\square F$ must be a multiple of the Least Common Multiple (LCM) of N1, N2, ... Np.